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ORGANIZATION OF THE BUREAU COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

By Mary Knox Stevens, Corresponding Secretary of the
Society.

At the Early Settlers Meeting held in Princeton, Aug. 26th, an interesting letter of reminiscences from Geo. W. Stone, read by Rev. C. C. Carpenter suggested the organization of a Historical Society for Bureau county. Rev. Carpenter was eloquent in his appeal to the people to lose no time in starting the organization and Rev. B. Barrett Evans moved that the President appoint a committee of five to take the first steps.

President L. R. Bryant appointed Mr. Andrew Swanzy, Mr. Frank Nye, Mr. H. A. Clark, Mrs. E. P. Lovejoy and Mrs. Justus M. Stevens as the committee.

The first meeting was held Oct. 9th, at the residence of Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. H. M. Trimble meeting with the committee. Mr. Swanzy was chairman of the first meeting and Mrs. Stevens secretary.

Two other meetings were held, but did not seem to arouse much enthusiasm until Hon. Wm. A. Meese of Moline addressed the first public meeting in the lecture room of the M. E. church Nov. 18th, when 53 people joined the society.

Mr. Meese interested his audience at once, telling them of the good material they had to start with; mentioning the names of Lovejoy, Bryant, Henderson, Elliott, and many others. Telling of the records our soldiers made in the Civil War; there being 500 Bureau county men at the battle of Shiloh alone.

County Superintendent Geo. O. Smith, chairman of the meeting, read the constitution that was finally adopted after a few alterations had been made.

The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year: Edwin B. Cushing, of Tiskilwa, President; C. C. Pervier, of Sheffield, Vice president; P. E. Anderson, of Princeton, Recording Secretary; Mrs. Justus M. Stevens, of Princeton, Corresponding Secretary; Miss Fannie Moseley, of Princeton, Assistant Corresponding Secretary; H. C. Roberts, of Princeton, Treasurer. Twenty-five Second Vice Presidents were chosen, one from each township in the county.

At Mr. Meese's suggestion we are to have an Owen Lovejoy day January 6th, to celebrate the 101st anniversary of the birth of Mr. Lovejoy.